from M/s Tata Industries Ltd. to operate a domestic airline in India with 40% equity participation by Singapore Airlines. The proposal has not been approved by the Government.

Scam in Vizag Steel Plant

5528. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether rupees 130 crore scam involving Vizag Steel Plant has been detected recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the persons found guilty and the punishment given to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant), as a major exporter of iron & steel products, obtained, under the provisions of EXIM Policy, Advance Import Licences during 1992-93 and 1993-94 having a total CIF value of Rs. 477.86 crores. Since import requirements of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant were limited, it decided to sell the surplus licences in the market as permissible under the EXIM policy. Accordingly, based on overall highest bidding, all the ten (10) licences were sold to a single party at a premium of 9.2% of the CIF value in February, 1994.

In February, 1995, on receipt of complaints from Department of Revenue about irregularities in the issue of Advance Licences to Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and their subsequent transfer to a private party, a preliminary enquiry was immediately conducted by Ministry of Steel. Based on the findings of this enquiry, the Executive Director (Vigilance), RINL was directed to conduct a detailed investigation. On receipt of the report from ED (Vig.), RINL the matter was considered in the Ministry and the Management was advised to take immediate action against some officials of VSP who were found to have been directly involved. Accordingly, departmental proceedings were initiated against three (3) officials. two (2) of whom were placed under suspension. Two officers have been awarded with punishment of reduction of basic pay to a lower stage in the time scale by one step while enquiry proceedings have been completed against the remaining officers and the matter is under examination of the Disciplinary Authority. Further, explanations were called from two more officials of the Finance Division of RINL. Their explanations have been received and it has been decided to review their cases after the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings against the marketing executives and the decision of the Appellate Authority on the appeal filed by the management against cancellation of the VABALS.

It may be mentioned that the Additional Director General of Foreign Trade and adjudicating authority vide his cancellation order dated the 27.9.95 cancelled all the 10 Advance Licences issued to VSP on the following grounds :

(i) that VSP availed credit of MODVAT on the inputs used in the manufacture of products which were exported under the said licences; and

(ii) that VSP did not maintain the consumption and utilisation of goods imported against these licences.

RINL has filed an appeal before the Appellate Committee in the Ministry of Commerce against the cancellation orders of the Addl. DGFT and the entire matter is subjudice.

[Translation]

Sale of Fake Air Tickets

5529. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether sale of fake air tickets have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Some counterfeit air tickets had come to the notice of Indian Airlines at Trichy and Madurai in 1994. These cases have been registered with the local Police and two persons have also been arrested. Officials of Indian Airlines have been alerted to exercise caution in the scrutiny of tickets.

In July, 1996 some fake tickets were also noticed by Air India office at Madras. Air India has referred the case to C.B.I. for investigation.

[English]

Notice of P.W.D., M.P. to Optical Fibre Wing

5530. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact, that the Public Works Department, Madhya Pradesh and the senior officials of Jabalpur on behalf of the Department, issued the notice for recovery of Rs. 35 lakhs for not carrying out the work as per the agreement between these two authorities,

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Governemnt in this regard;